AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (currently amended)   A system for <u>creating an output video production from an input video signal</u>~~processing video segments~~, said system including:

        means for <u>obtaining at least one</u> ~~creating a~~ descriptor <u>value for each of a plurality of segments of the input video signal</u> ~~and ascribing at least one value thereto for a corresponding video segment~~; and

        <u>means for using a selection rule and said descriptor values to select, from among the plurality of video segments, at least two video segments;</u>

        <u>means for using a sequencing rule and said descriptor values of said at least two selected video segments to derive a sequencing order in which to present said at least two selected segments, said new sequence being different from the sequence of the segments in the input video signal; and</u>

        means for assembling an output video production <u>by including the selected video segments in the selected order</u> ~~from at least two video segments, including means for selecting said at least two video segments according to values of at least one descriptor corresponding to said at least two video segments and means for sequencing said at least two video segments according to values of at least one descriptor corresponding to said at least two video segments~~.

2.   (currently amended)   The system as in claim 1, further including means for displaying at least one grid, each of said at least one grid having ~~as~~ references representations of <u>the plurality of video segments</u> ~~said at least two video segments~~ for a first axis and ~~said~~ at least one descriptor corresponding to <u>the plurality of</u> ~~said at least two~~ video segments for a second axis, wherein each cell in said at least one grid displays a representation of at least one <u>descriptor</u> value ascribed to one of said at least one descriptors corresponding to one of <u>the plurality of</u> ~~said at least two~~ video segments.

3.   (original)   The system as in claim 2, wherein said at least one grid
includes a plurality of rows, said plurality of rows including:

        a row visually representing the plurality of ~~said at least two~~ video segments;

        a row visually representing audio content of the plurality of ~~said at least two~~
video segments; and

        a row providing time-series graphical representations of a plurality of descriptor
values ~~of a descriptor~~ corresponding to one of the plurality of ~~said at least two~~ video
segments,

wherein the temporal extent of each of the plurality of ~~said at least two~~ video segments
is indicated in one of said plurality of rows.

4.   (currently amended)   The system as in claim 3, wherein said at least one grid
further includes first and second grid, wherein when said ~~a~~ video ~~material~~ signal is input
into said system, said first grid represents said input video signal ~~material~~ in
substantially an original state and second grid represents said output video production,
and a change to said first grid causes a corresponding change to said second grid.

5.   (currently amended)   The system as in claim 1, further including means for
creating transitions between selected video segments.

6.   (currently amended)   The system as in claim 5, wherein said means for creating
transitions includes means for creating video dissolves or audio cross fades between
selected video segments.

7.   (currently amended)   The system as in claim 1, wherein said means for
obtaining said ~~creating a~~ descriptor values includes means for importing a descriptor

from the input video signal and at least one value for said descriptor which is ascribed to each segment of the input video signal, wherein said at least one value is ~~thereto~~ created prior to importation into said system.

8.   (currently amended)   The system as in claim 1, wherein said means for obtaining said ~~creating a~~ descriptor values includes means for performing an automatic ~~extracting a value for a descriptor corresponding to a video segment by applying~~ signal analysis of each of the segments of the input video signal and ascribing at least one value thereto based on the analysis ~~video or audio content to said video segment~~.

9.   (currently amended)   The system as in claim 1, wherein said means for obtaining said ~~creating a~~ descriptor values includes means for creating said at least one descriptor value for each video segment ~~a value for a descriptor corresponding to one of said at least two video segments~~ by assigning an ordinal number to each of the segments of the input video signal in accordance with the position of the respective video segments ~~thereof~~ in the plurality of segments of the input video signal ~~said at least two video segments~~.

10.   (currently amended)   The system as in claim 1, wherein said means for obtaining said descriptor values ~~ascribing at least one value to a descriptor~~ includes means for ascribing said at least one descriptor value to each segment of the input video signal by using a formula or algorithm having a reference to at least a second ~~one other~~ descriptor value.

11.   (withdrawn)   The system as in claim 1, further including means for segmenting video material input into said system into video segments, said means including:

        means for identifying at least one temporal region in said input video material and representing said region as video segment;

means for choosing at least one descriptor whereon said identifying means is based; and

means for defining at least one segmenation rule governing said identifying means.

12.   (withdrawn)   The system as in claim 11, wherein said means for segmenting includes means for re-segmenting a first set of video segments into a second set of video segments.

13.   (withdrawn)   The system as in claim 12, wherein said means for segmenting further includes means for deriving a value for a descriptor corresponding to each of said second set of video segments by selectively copying or combining values of said descriptor corresponding to said first set of video segments.

14.   (withdrawn)   The system as in claim 11, wherein said means for segmenting includes means for identifying and representing a different set of video segments for each of said at least one descriptor.

15.   (currently amended)   The system as in claim 1, further including means for segmenting an input video signal ~~material input into said system~~ into the plurality of video segments by enabling definition or adjustment of start and end times of a video segment by direct user manipulation.

16.   (currently amended)   The system of claim 1, further including means for deriving a single value from a plurality of temporally successive values of a descriptor corresponding to one of said plurality of ~~at least two~~ video segments.

17.   (withdrawn)   The system as in claim 1, further including means for subdividing a single video segment into a plurality of video segments, wherein a value of a

descriptor corresponding to said single video segment is copied to a descriptor

corresponding to said plurality of video segments by progressive decomposition.

18.   (withdrawn)   The system as in claim 1, further including means for merging a

plurality of video segements by aggregating said plurality of video segments into a

single video segment, wherein a value of a descriptor corresponding to said single video

segment is derived from values of a descriptor corresponding to said plurality of

segments.

19.   (original)   The system as in claim 1, further including means for providing

playback of said output video production.

20.   (currently amended)   The system as in claim 1, wherein said <u>means for</u> selecting

<u>at least two video segments</u> ~~means~~ <u>includes a selection rule which</u> selects said at least

two video segments according to whether <u>said at least one descriptor value for each

segment</u> ~~values of said at least one descriptor~~ lie<u>s</u> substantially within a range of target

values.

21. (Canceled).

22.   (currently amended)   The system as in claim 1, wherein said <u>means for deriving

a</u> sequencing <u>order comprises</u> means <u>for ordering</u> ~~orders~~ said at least two <u>selected</u> video

segments according to the difference between ~~values of~~ said at least one descriptor <u>value

for each repective selected video segment</u> and a target value.

23. (Canceled).

24.   (currently amended)   A <u>computerized</u> method for <u>creating an output video

production from an input video signal</u> ~~processing video segments~~, <u>the</u> ~~said~~ method

including the steps of:

(a) obtaining at least one ~~creating a~~ descriptor value for each of a plurality of video segments of the input video signal ~~and ascribing at least one value thereto for a corresponding video segment~~; and

~~assembling an output video production from at least two video segments, said assembling step including the steps of~~

(b) using a selection rule and said descriptor values to select, from among the plurality of video segments, ~~selecting said~~ at least two video segments; ~~according to values of at least one descriptor corresponding to said at least two video segments, and~~

(c) using a sequencing rule and said descriptor values of said at least two selected video segments to derive a sequencing order in which to present said at least two selected segments, said new sequence being different from the sequence of the segments in the input video signal, and ~~said at least two video segments according to values of at least one descriptor corresponding to said at least two video segments.~~

(d) assembling the output video production including the selected video segments in the selected order.

25.   (currently amended)   The method as in claim 24, further including the step of displaying at least one grid, each of said at least one grid having ~~as~~ references representations of the plurality of video segments ~~of said at least two video segments~~ for a first axis and ~~said~~ at least one descriptor corresponding to the plurality of ~~said at least two~~ video segments for a second axis, wherein each cell in said at least one grid displays a representation of at least one descriptor value ascribed to one of said at least one descriptors corresponding to one of the plurality of ~~said at least two~~ video segments.

26.   (currently amended)   The method as in claim 25, wherein said step of displaying said at least one grid includes the step of displaying a plurality of rows, said plurality of rows including:

a row visually representing the plurality of ~~said at least two~~ video segments;

a row visually representing audio content of the plurality of ~~said at least two~~ video segments; and

a row providing time-series graphical representations of a plurality of <u>descriptor</u> values ~~of a descriptor~~ corresponding to one of <u>the plurality of video segments</u>~~said at least two video segments~~,

wherein the temporal extent of each of <u>the plurality of video segments</u> ~~said at least two video segments~~ is indicated in one of said plurality of rows.

27.   (currently amended)   The method as in claim 26, wherein said step of displaying said at least one grid includes the step of displaying first and second grids, wherein when <u>the</u> ~~an~~ input video <u>signal</u> ~~material~~ is provided, said first grid represents the <u>said</u> input video <u>signal</u> ~~material~~ in substantially an original state and <u>said</u> second grid represents said output video production, and a change to said first grid causes a corresponding change to said second grid.

28.   (currently amended)   The method as in claim 24, further including the step of creating transitions between <u>said selected</u> video segments.

29.   (currently amended)   The method as in claim 28, wherein said step of creating transitions includes the step of creating video dissolves or audio cross fades between <u>said selected</u> video segments.

30.   (currently amended)   The method as in claim 24, wherein said step of <u>obtaining</u> said ~~creating a~~ descriptor <u>values</u> includes the step of importing <u>from the input video signal</u> a descriptor and at least one value <u>for said descriptor which is</u> ascribed <u>to each segment of the input video signal wherein said at least one value is</u> ~~thereto~~ created prior to importation ~~into said system~~.

31.   (currently amended)   The method as in claim 24, wherein said step of <u>obtaining</u> ~~creating a~~ <u>said</u> descriptor <u>values is performed by performing an</u> ~~includes the step of~~

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/509,280
Amendment and Response to Notice of Non-
     Compliant Amendment
Page 9

~~extracting a value for a descriptor corresponding to a video segment by applying~~ automatic signal analysis of <u>each of the segments of the input video signal</u>~~video or audio content to said video segment~~.

32.   (currently amended)   The method as in claim 24, wherein said step of <u>obtaining said</u> ~~creating a~~ descriptor <u>values is performed</u> ~~includes the step of creating a value for a descriptor corresponding to one of said at least two~~<u>video segments</u>~~by~~ assigning an ordinal number <u>to each of the segments of the input video signal</u> in accordance with <u>the</u> position <u>of the respective video segments</u> ~~thereof~~ in <u>the plurality of segments of the input video signal</u> ~~said at least two video segments~~.

33.   (currently amended)   The method as in claim 24, wherein said step of <u>of</u> obtaining said ~~ascribing at least one value to a~~ descriptor <u>values is performed by</u> ~~includes the step of~~ascribing said at least one <u>descriptor</u> value to ~~said descriptor~~<u>each segment of the input video signal</u> by using a formula or algorithm having a reference to at least <u>a second</u> ~~one other~~descriptor<u>value</u>.

34.   (withdrawn)   The method as in claim 24, further including the step of segmenting an input video material into video segments, said step including the steps of:

       identifying at least one temporal region in said input video material and representing said region as a video segment,

       choosing at least one descriptor whereon said identifying means is based, and

       defining at least one segmentation rule governing said identifying means.

35.   (withdrawn)   The method as in claim 34, wherein said step of segmenting includes the step of re-segmenting at first set of video segments into a second set of video segements.

36.   (withdrawn)   The method as in claim 35, wherein said step of segementing further includes step of deriving a value for a descriptor corresponding to each of said

second set of video segements by selectively copying or combining values of said

descritor corresponding to said first set of video segments.

37.   (withdrawn)   The method as in claim 34, wherein said step of segmenting

includes the step of identifying and representing a different set of video segments for

each of said at least one descriptor.

38.   (currently amended)   The method as in claim 24, ~~further~~ including the <u>further</u>

step <u>performed before step (a) of</u> of segmenting <u>the</u> ~~an~~ input video <u>signal</u> ~~material~~ into

video segments by enabling definition or adjustment of start and end times of a video

segment by direct user manipulation.

39.   (currently amended)   The method as in claim 24, ~~further~~ including the <u>further</u>

step of deriving a single value from a plurality of temporally successive values of a

descriptor corresponding to one of said at least two video segments.

40.   (withdrawn)   The method as in claim 24, further including the step of

subdividing a single video segment into a plurality of video segments, wherein a value

of a descriptor corresponding to said single video segment is copied a descriptor

corresponding to said plurality of video segments by progessive decomposition.

41.   (withdrawn)   The method as in claim 24, further including the step of merging

a pluralilty of video segments by agrregating said plurality of video segments into a

single video segment, wherein a value of a descriptor corresponding to said single video

segment is derived from values of a descriptor corresponding to said plurality of

segements.

42.   (original)   The method as in claim 24, further including the step of playing

back said output video production.

43.   (currently amended)   The method as in claim 24, wherein said <u>selection rule in</u> <u>said step (b) of selecting at least two video segments</u> ~~selecting step~~ includes ~~the step of~~ selecting said at least two video segments according to whether <u>said at least one</u> descriptor <u>values</u> <u>for each segment</u> ~~of said of least one descriptor~~ lie<u>s</u> substantially within a range of target values.

44. (Canceled).

45.   (currently amended)   The method as in claim 24, wherein said sequencing <u>rule</u> <u>in said step (c) of deriving a sequencing order</u> ~~step~~ includes the step of ordering said at least two <u>selected</u> video segments according to the difference between ~~values of~~ said at least one descriptor <u>value for each respective selected video segment</u> and a target value.

46. (Canceled).

47.   (presently amended)   A computer program product for <u>creating an output video</u> <u>production from an input video signal</u> ~~processing video segments~~, <u>said product</u> including:

        a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for processing <u>said input video signal</u> ~~video segments~~, said computer program product having:
        computer readable program code means for <u>obtaining at least one</u> ~~creating a~~ descriptor <u>value for each of a plurality of segments of the input video signal</u> ~~and~~ ~~ascribing at least one value thereto for a corresponding video segment~~; ~~and~~
        computer readable program code means for <u>using a selection rule and said</u> <u>descriptor values to select, from among the plurality of video segments, at least two</u> <u>video segments;</u>

computer readable program code means for using a sequencing rule and said descriptor values of said at least two selected video segments to derive a sequencing order in which to present said at least two selected segments, said new sequence being different from the sequence of the segments in the input video signal, and

computer readable program code means for assembling an output video production by including the selected video segments in the selected order ~~from at least two video segments, including~~

~~computer readable program code means for selecting said at least two video segments according to values of at least one descriptor corresponding to said at least two video segments, and~~

~~computer readable program code means for sequencing said at least two video segments according to values of at least one descriptor corresponding to said at least two video segments.~~

48.　(currently amended)　The product as in claim 47, further including computer readable program code means for displaying at least one grid, each of said at least one grid having ~~as~~ references representations of the plurality of ~~said at least two~~ video segments for a first axis and said at least one descriptor corresponding to the plurality of ~~said at least two~~ video segments for a second axis, wherein each cell in said at least one grid displays a representation of at least one descriptor value ascribed to one of said at least one descriptors corresponding to one of the plurality of ~~said at least~~ two video segments.

49.　(currently amended)　The product as in claim 47, wherein said computer readable program code means for display said at least one grid, includes computer readable program code means for displaying a plurality of rows, said plurality of rows including:

a row visually representing the plurality of said at least two video segments;

a row visually representing audio content of the plurality of said at least two video segments; and

a row providing time-series graphical representations of a plurality of descriptor values of a descriptor corresponding to one of the plurality of said at least two video segments,

wherein the temporal extent of each of the plurality of said at least two video segments is indicated in one of said plurality of rows.

50.   (currently amended)   The product as in claim 49, wherein said computer readable program code means for displaying said at least one grid further includes computer readable program code means for displaying first and second grids, wherein when the an input video signal material is provided, said first grid represents said input video signal material in substantially an original state and second grid represents said output video production, and a change to said first grid causes a corresponding change to said second grid.

51.   (currently amended)   The product as in claim 47, further including computer readable program code means for creating transitions between selected video segments.

52.   (currently amended)   The product as in claim 51, wherein said computer readable program code means for creating transitions includes computer readable program code means for creating video dissolves or audio cross fades between selected video segments.

53.   (currently amended)   The product as in claim 47, wherein said computer readable program code means for ~~obtaining said~~ creating a descriptor values includes computer readable program code means for importing a descriptor from the input video signal and at least one value for said descriptor which is ascribed to each segment of the input video signal, wherein said at least one value is ~~thereto~~ created prior to importation ~~into said system~~.

54.   (currently amended)   The product as in claim 47, wherein said computer readable program code means for obtaining said ~~creating a~~ descriptor values includes computer readable program code means for performing an automatic ~~extracting a value for a descriptor corresponding to a video segment by applying~~ signal analysis of of each of the segments of the input video signal and ascribing at least one value thereto based on the analysis ~~or audio content to said video segment~~.

55.   (currently amended)   The product as in claim 47, wherein said computer readable program code means for obtaining said ~~creating a~~ descriptor values includes computer readable program code means for creating said at least one descriptor value for each video segment ~~a value for a descriptor corresponding to one of said at least two video segments~~ by assigning an ordinal number in accordance with the position of the respective video segments ~~thereof~~ in the plurality of segments of the input video signal ~~said, at least two video segments~~.

56.   (currently amended)   The product as in claim 47, wherein said computer readable program code means for obtaining said descriptor values ~~ascribing at least one value to a descriptor~~ includes computer readable program code means for ascribing said at least one descriptor value to each segment of the input video signal by ~~said descriptor~~ using a formula or algorithm having a reference to at least a second ~~one other~~ descriptor value.

57.   (withdrawn)   The product as in claim 47, further including computer readable program code means for segmenting an input video material into video segments, said computer readable program code means including:

computer readable program code means for identifying at least one temporal region in said input video material and representing said region as a video segment;

computer readable program code means for choosing at least one descriptor whereon said identifying means is based; and

computer readable program code means for defining at least one segmentation rule governing said identifying means.

58.   (withdrawn)   The product as in claim 57, wherein said computer readable program code means for segmenting includes computer readable progrom code means for re-segmenting at first set of video segments into a second set of video segments.

59.   (withdrawn)   The product as in claim 58, wherein said computer readable program code means for segmenting further includes computer readable program code means for deriving a value for a descriptor corresponding to each of said second set of video segments by selectively copying or combining values of said descriptor corresponding to said first set of video segments.

60.   (original)   The product as in claim 47, wherein said computer readable program code means for segmenting includes computer readable program code means for identifying and representing a different set of video segments for each of said at least one descriptor.

61.   (currently amended)   The product as in claim 57, further including computer readable program code means for segmenting the an-input video signal material into the

plurality of video segments by enabling definition or adjustment of start and end times of a video segment by direct user manipulation.

62.   (currently amended)   The product as in claim 47, further including computer readable program code means for deriving a single value from a plurality of temporally successive values of a descriptor corresponding to one of said plurality of at least two video segments.

63.   (withdrawn)   The product as in claim 47, further including computer readable program code means for subdividing a single video segment into a plurality of video segments, wherein a value of a descriptor corresponding to said single video segment is copied to a descriptor corresponding to said plurality of video segments by progressive decomposition.

64.   (withdrawn)   The product as in claim 47, further including computer readable program code means for merging a plurality of video segments by aggregating said plurality of video segments into a single video segment, wherein in a value of a descriptor corresponding to said single video segement is dervied of a descriptor corresponding to said plurality of segments.

65.   (original)   The product as in claim 47, further including computer readable program code means for providing playback of said output video production.

66.   (currently amended)   The product as in claim 47, wherein said computer readable program code means for selecting said at least two video segments according to values of at least one descriptor corresponding to said at least two video segments include computer readable program code means selection rules which for selecting said at least two video segments according to whether values of said at least one descriptor value lie substantially within a range of target value.

67. (Canceled).

68.   (currently amended)   The product as in claim 47, wherein said computer readable program code means for ~~deriving a~~ sequencing order ~~said at least two video segments according to values of at least one descriptor corresponding to said at least two video segments~~ includes computer readable program code means for ordering said at least two selected video segments according to the difference between ~~values of~~ said at least one descriptor value for each respective selected video segment and a target value.

69.   (Canceled)

70.   (withdrawn)   A system for describing video segment, said system including:
        means for creating a first descriptor and ascribing a first value thereto for a corresponding video segment;
        means for grouping said first video segment with at least one other video segment according to values of at least one other descriptor corresponding to said first video segment and said at least one other video segment; and
        means for ascribing said first value to said first descriptor corresponding to said at least one other video segment.

71.   (withdrawn)   The system as in claim 70, further including means for selecting said at least one other descriptor.

72.   (withdrawn)   The system as in claim 71, wherein said means for grouping includes means for comparing said values of at least one other descriptor corresponding to said first video segment and said at least one other video segment.

73.   (withdrawn)   The system as in claim 72, wherein said means for grouping further includes means for sorting said first video segment and said at least one other video segment.

74.   (withdrawn)   The system as in claim 73, wherein said means for grouping further includes means for sorting said first video segment and said at least one other video segment using sorting techniques including sort-by-value, sort-by-distance, formulaic sorting, algorithmic sorting, or hierarchical sorting.

75.   (withdrawn)   The system as in claim 73, wherien said means for grouping further includes means for providing visual inspection of representations of said first video segment and said at least one other video segment using a user interface having a display.

76.   (withdrawn)   The system as in claim 75, wherein said means for grouping further includes means for actuating through said user interface means for ascribing said first value to said first descriptor corresponding to said at least one other video segment after visual inspection of said representations.

77.   (withdrawn)   The system as in claim 73, wherein said means for creating said first descriptor and ascribing said first value thereto includes means for manually assigning said first value to said first descriptor.

78.   (withdrawn)   The system as in claim 77, wherein said means for creating said first descriptor and ascribing said first value thereto includes means for manually assigning said first value having semantic power to said first descriptor.

79.   (withdrawn)   The system as in claim 78, wherein said at least one other descriptor corresponding to said first video segment and said at least one other video segment is automatically extracted.

80.   (withdrawn)   A method for describing video segments, said method including the steps of:

creating a first descriptor and ascribing a first value thereto for a corresponding video segment;

grouping said first video segment with at least one other video segment according to values of a least one other descriptor corresponding to said first video segment and said at leat one other video segment; and

ascribing said first value to said first descriptor corresponding to said at least one other video segment.

81.   (withdrawn)   The method as in claim 80, further including the step of selecting said at least one other descriptor.

82.   (withdrawn)   The method as in claim 81, wherein said step of grouping includes the step of comparing said values of at least one other descriptor corresponding to said first video segment and said at least one other video segment.

83.   (withdrawn)   The method as in claim 82, wherein said step of grouping further includes the step of sorting said first video segment and said at least one other video segment.

84.   (withdrawn)   The method as in claim 83, wherein said of grouping further includes the step of sorting said first video segment and said at least one other video segment using sorting techniques including sort-by-value, sort-by-distance, formulaic sorting, algorithmic sorting, or hierarchical sorting.

85.   (withdrawn)   The method as in claim 83, wherein said step of grouping further includes the step of providing visual inspection of representations of said first video segment and said at least one other video segment using a user interface having a display.

86.   (withdrawn)   The method as in claim 85, wherein said step of grouping further includes the step of actuating through said user interface means for ascribing said first value to said first descriptor corresponding to said at least one other video segment after visual inspection of said representations.

87.   (withdrawn)   The method as in claim 83, wherein said step of creating said first descriptor and ascribing said first value thereto includes the step of manually assigning said frist value to said first descriptor.

88.   (withdrawn)   The method as in claim 87, wherein said step of creating said first descriptor and ascribing said first value thereto includes the step of manually assiging said first value having semantic power to said first descriptor.

89.   (withdrawn)   The method as in claim 88, wherein said step of creating said first descriptor further includes the step of automatically extracting at least one other descriptor corresponding to said first video segment and said at least one other video segment.

90.   (withdrawn)   A computer program product for describing video segments, including:
        a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for describing video segments, said computer program product having:
        computer readable program code means for creating a first descriptor and ascribing a first value thereto for a corresponding video segment;

computer readable program code means for grouping said first video segment with at least one other video segment according to values of at least one other descriptor corresponding to said first video segment and said at least one other video segment; and

computer readable program code means for ascribing said first value to said first descriptor corresponding to said at least one other video segment.

91.   (withdrawn)   The product as in claim 90, further including computer readable program code means for selecting said at least one other descriptor.

92.   (withdrawn)   The product as in claim 91, wherein said computer readable program code means for 8 grouping includes computer readable program code means for comparing said values of at least one other descriptor corresponding to said first video segment and said at least one other video segment.

93.   (withdrawn)   The product as in claim 92, wherein said computer readable program code means for grouping further includes computer readable program code means for sorting said first video segment and said at least one other video segment.

94.   (withdrawn)   The product as in claim 93, wherein said computer readable program code means for grouping further includes computer readable program code means for sorting said first video segment and said at least one other video segment using sorting techniques including sort-by-value, sort-by-distance, formulaic sorting, algorithmic sorting, or hierarchical sorting.

95.   (withdrawn)   The product as in claim 93, wherein said computer readable program code means for grouping further includes computer readable program code means for providing visual inspection of representations of said first video segment and said at least one other video segment using a user interface having a display.

96.   (withdrawn)   The product as in claim 95, wherein said computer readable program code means for grouping further includes means for actuating through said user interface computer readable program code means for ascribing said first value to said first descriptor corresponding to said at least one other video segment after visual inspection of said representations.

97.   (withdrawn)   The product as in claim 93, wherein said computer readable program code means for creating said first descriptor and ascribing said first value thereto includes computer readable program code means for manually assigning said first value to said first descriptor.

98.   (withdrawn)   The product as in claim 97, wherein said computer readable program code means for creating said first descriptor and ascribing said first value thereto includes computer readable program code means for manually assigning said first value having semantic power to said first descriptor.

99.   (withdrawn)   The product as in claim 98, wherein said computer readable program code means for creating said first descriptor and ascribing said first value thereto includes computer readable program code means for automatically extracting said at least one other descriptor corresponding to said first video segment and said at least one other video segment.

100.   (new) The system as in claim 1, wherein said means for selecting at least two video segments further includes means for choosing the selection rule from a predefined set of selection rules.

101.   (new) The system as in claim 1, wherein said means for deriving a sequencing order further includes means for choosing the sequencing rule from a predetermined set of sequencing rules.

102.   (new) The system as in claim 1, further including means for defining the segments of the input video signal, said means including :

means for obtaining at least two time series descriptors, each time series descriptor representing the value of a characteristic of the input video signal at each of a series of successive time periods; and

means for using at least one of the time-series descriptors to derive a set of segment boundary times, the segment boundary times defining said segments of the input video signal;

wherein said means for obtaining descriptor values automatically obtains at least one descriptor value for each of said segments of the input video signal by using at least a second of the time series descriptors.

103.   (new) The system as in claim 1, wherein said means for obtaining descriptor values includes:

means for obtaining a first said descriptor value for each of said segments;

means for ascribing at least one second descriptor value to at least a first of said segments;

means for grouping said first segment with at least one other of the segments according to the values of said first descriptor value; and

means for selectively copying said second descriptor value to said one or more other segments.

104.   (new) The system as in claim 1, further comprising:

display means for allowing a user to view said output production;

data input means for receiving instructions from the user to modify at least one of:

(i) the descriptor values;

(ii) the selection rule;

(iii) the sequencing rule;

said means for obtaining descriptors, means for selecting at least two video

segments, means for deriving a sequencing order and means for assembling an output

video production being arranged to generate a modified output production based on the

the modified descriptor values, selection rule and/or sequencing rule.

105.   (new) A system for creating an output video production from an input video

signal, the system comprising:

means for obtaining at least two time series descriptors, each of said time series

descriptors representing the value of a characteristic of the input video signal at each of

a series of successive time periods;

means for using at least one of the time-series descriptors to derive a set of

segment boundary times, the segment boundary times defining a plurality of segments

of the input video signal;

means for applying a descriptor reduction rule to at least a second one of the

time series descriptors to obtain automatically at least one segment descriptor for each

of said segments of the input video signal, the or each segment descriptor having a

single value for each respective segment of the input video signal;

means for using a selection rule and said descriptor values to select, from

among the plurality of video segments, at least two segments; and

means for assembling the output video production including the selected video

segments.

106.   (new)   A method as in claim 24 including a further step of choosing the

selection rule from a predefined set of selection rules.

107.   (new) A method as in claim 24 including a further step of choosing the

sequencing rule from a predetermined set of sequencing rules.

108.   (new) The method as in claim 24, including the further steps, performed before

step (a), of defining the segments of the input video signal by:

obtaining at least two time series descriptors, each time series descriptor

representing the value of a characteristic of the input video signal at each of a series of successive time periods;

using at least one of the time-series descriptors to derive a set of segment boundary times, the segment boundary times defining said segments of the input video signal; and

said step (a), of obtaining at least one descriptor value for each said segments of the input video signal, being performed automatically using at least a second of the time series descriptors.

109.   (new) A method according to claim 24 in which said step (a) of obtaining at least one descriptor value for each of said segments of the input video signal includes:

obtaining a first said descriptor value for each of said segments;

ascribing at least one second descriptor value to at least a first of said segments;

grouping said first segment with at least one other of the segments according to the values of said first descriptor value,

selectively copying said second descriptor value to said one or more other segments.

110.   (new) A method according to claim 24 including, at least once, performing the further steps of:

(e) allowing a user to view said output production;

(f) receiving instructions from the user to modify at least one of:

(i) the descriptor values;

(ii) the selection rule;

(iii) the sequencing rule; and

(g) repeating steps (a) to (d) based on the modified descriptor values, selection rule and/or sequencing rule to obtain a modified output production.

111.   (new) A computerized method for creating an output video production from an input video signal, the method including the steps of:

(a) obtaining at least two time series descriptors, each of said time series descriptors representing the value of a characteristic of the input video signal at each of a series of successive time periods;

(b) using at least one of the time-series descriptors to derive a set of segment boundary times, the segment boundary times defining a plurality of segments of the input video signal;

(c) applying a descriptor reduction rule to at least a second one of the time series descriptors to obtain automatically at least one segment descriptor for each of said segments of the input video signal, the or each segment descriptor having a single value for each respective segment of the input video signal;

(d) using a selection rule and said descriptor values to select, from among the plurality of video segments, at least two segments; and

(e) assembling the output video production including the selected video segments.

112.   (new) The product as in claim 47, wherein said computer readable program code means for selecting at least two video segments further includes computer readable program code means for choosing the selection rule from a predefined set of selection rules.

113.   (new) The product as in claim 47, wherein said computer readable program code means for deriving a sequencing order further includes computer readable program code means for choosing the sequencing rule from a predetermined set of sequencing rules.

114.   (new) The product as in claim 47, further comprising computer readable program code means for segmenting the input video signal into the plurality of video segments, said means including:

computer readable program code means for obtaining at least two time series descriptors, each time series descriptor representing the value of a characteristic of the

input video signal at each of a series of successive time periods; and

computer readable program code means for means for using at least one of the time-series descriptors to derive a set of segment boundary times, the segment boundary times defining said segments of the input video signal;

wherein said computer readable program code means for means for obtaining said descriptor values automatically obtains at least one descriptor value for each of said segments of the input video signal by using at least a second of the time series descriptors.

115.   (new) The product as in claim 47, wherein said computer readable program code means for obtaining descriptor values includes:

computer readable program code means for obtaining a first said descriptor value for each of said segments;

computer readable program code means for ascribing at least one second descriptor value to at least a first of said segments;

computer readable program code means for grouping said first segment with at least one other of the segments according to the values of said first descriptor value; and

computer readable program code means for selectively copying said second descriptor value to said one or more other segments.

116.   (new) The product according to claim 47, further comprising computer readable program code means for performing at least once the further steps of:

allowing a user to view said output production;

receiving instructions from the user to modify at least one of:

(i) the descriptor values;

(ii) the selection rule;

(iii) the sequencing rule; and

using said computer readable program code means for obtaining descriptors, selecting at least two video segments, deriving a sequencing order and assembling an output video production to obtain a modified output production based on the the

modified descriptor values, selection rule and/or sequencing rule.

117.   (new)   A computer program product for creating an output video production from an input video signal , said product including:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for processing said input video signal , said computer program product having:

computer readable program code means for obtaining at least two time series descriptors, each of said time series descriptors representing the value of a characteristic of the input video signal at each of a series of successive time periods;

computer readable program code means for using at least one of the time-series descriptors to derive a set of segment boundary times, the segment boundary times defining a plurality of segments of the input video signal;

computer readable program code means for applying a descriptor reduction rule to at least a second one of the time series descriptors to obtain automatically at least one segment descriptor for each of said segments of the input video signal, the or each segment descriptor having a single value for each respective segment of the input video signal;

computer readable program code means for using a selection rule and said descriptor values to select, from among the plurality of video segments, at least two segments; and

computer readable program code means for assembling the output video production including the selected video segments.

[to next page]